

[4 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

as *yet no* decision to set up an autonomous Indian Railway Power Corporation as a canalising agency for procurement of power.

(c) and (d) Matter will be examined after a pre-feasibility study has been carried out.

Fitness of Pedapalli-Karimnagar Rail track

1516. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts find the new Peddapalli-Karimnagar track unfit for passenger trains;

(b) if so, whether soil quality was tested before carrying out the project; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

A.C. Accommodation in Gautami Express

1517. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal *to* increase the AC accommodation on Gautami Express in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is need for more accommodation;

(c) what are the reasons for not adding additional coaches to Gautami Express; and

(d) the steps proposed to enhance accommodation in such trains in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) At present Gautami Express is running with maximum permissible load of 22 coaches leaving no room for attaching any extra coach.

(d) Proposals are on hand to augment Gautami Express to 24